

REMARKSStatus of claims

Claims 1-41 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 20, 26, 28, 32, 34, 35, 39 and 41 are currently being amended.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the claims have been amended to correspond to the numbers and ranges for the flexural modulus expressly presented in Table 4 of the application.

With respect to the reference to ethylene diamine phosphate salt, the Examiners' attention is directed to the definition of Amgard™NP at page 19, line 14 of the specification. With respect to the recited thickness values in claims 25, 27, 31, 33, 38 and 40, these ranges are included in the burn rating guidelines that are listed in Table 4. Note also the thickness range given at page 15, lines 16-17. The claims reciting the specific gravity have been amended to reflect those listed in Table 4.

Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nalepa in view of EP0618255A1. Applicants reiterate, in view of the amended claims, that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a battery casing having the recited combination of features.

The Applicants' attorney has reviewed the cited references and was unable to locate any disclosure therein citing a flexural modulus greater than 241,000 psi. The Examiner is invited to specifically note where in the references this disclosure can be found. The combination of strength and burn rating recited in the claims is not disclosed in the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
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